

Mt 25:14-30 uses a parable to illustrate God's expectation of us to use whatever he gives to us, even our trials and tribulations, to advance his kingdom. When God gives us, "his own servants", those chosen by him, a testimony through our trials and tribulations it's like being given an asset to invest for him in hopes of that asset increasing in value. We should use these "talents" to advance the kingdom of God and not let them go to waste. It's an insult to God not to do any thing with the testimonies we've been given. Our testimonies are not to be suppressed and "buried in the ground", hidden from the view of others. They are to be used to uplift and bring others into the kingdom of Heaven, used to give even our misfortunes purpose. They are to be used to serve as an example, to warn against, and remove, the stumbling stone. This can more adequately be illustrated by the scripture Jeremiah 3:7. God is admonishing Israel with righteous indignation for Israel not learning from their trials and tribulations, turning from their wickedness, and using it to warn Judah about the consequences of wickedness. God's indignation increases when Judah is made aware of Israel's wickedness, and how he feels about it, but does nothing to turn away from their sins.

And I said after she had done all these things, Turn thou unto me. But she returned not. And her treacherous sister **Judah saw it**, ...yet her treacherous sister Judah feared not, but went and played the harlot also.

You might say that because Israel did not turn from their sins and use these trials and tribulations to advance God's kingdom, their talents were not properly invested, thus they did not bring in a return, nor were they adequate in any meaningful way to others like Judah. Judah simply saw them as the impotent, invaluable, and meaningless set of circumstances they were because they did not speak to the power and authority of the righteousness of God.

Everyone has been given a talent to use to multiply the number of saved souls for Christ. Not to be available to use your trials and tribulations to save one soul for the Lord Jesus is comparable to digging a hole and burying the talent God gave you to invest for the advancement of his kingdom. He didn't give us the talent just for us to isolate ourselves from unbelievers and believers alike, not taking

risks, just playing it safe. It leaves us with the torment of conscious, forever talking about what we should have done, what we could have done. It would seem that God blesses those more that have the least to work with but does more with the little they have.